

Big River Journey Fall 2006

What is Big River Journey?

Big River Journey (BRJ) is an integration of river and classroom experiences that connect 4th-6th grade students with the science and heritage of the Mississippi River. BRJ culminates with a riverboat excursion on the Mississippi River featuring hands-on learning stations.

Teachers who sign up for Big River Journey incorporate river-themed activities into their classroom. Pre- and post-trip classroom activities are selected by each teacher from among the many activity options presented in advance teacher workshops. Big River Journey is linked with Minnesota Academic Standards.

Field trip description

Big River Journey field trips feature staffed learning stations with hands-on activities on the following topics (subject to change):

- Aquatic insects & water quality
- River geology
- River ecosystem
- River birds
- Watershed stewardship
- Riverboats & piloting

Trips are designed for up to 120 4th-6th grade students.

Field trip location

Mississippi River, aboard the *Anson Northrup* or *Betsy Northrup* riverboat. Trips travel from Padelford Landing (Harriet Island, Saint Paul) to alongside Fort Snelling State Park (Pike Island) and back.

Field trip dates & times

September 25, 26, 28 and 29, 2006
Boarding times: 9:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.
Boat trip duration: 1_ hours.

These fall trips are **all round trips** that begin and end at Padelford Landing, Harriet Island, St. Paul.

Field trip fee: \$7.50/student

Field trip billing and payments are handled by the *Padelford Packet Boat Co. Inc.*,
ph: 651-227-1100.

Scholarships

Scholarships to reduce field trip cost are available for qualifying schools. (Schools with at least 50% participation in the free-and-reduced lunch program and/or at least 50% students of color qualify.) The field trip fee for approved scholarship schools will be \$2.50/student. Scholarship eligibility must be verified in writing by your principal; written confirmation will be sent. Schools arrange and pay for their own buses. To request a scholarship **call Brian Goodspeed** at 651-290-3030, ext. 297.

Participation requirements

1) Attendance at a *Big River Teacher Workshop* is *required* of all teachers unless previously attended in the past five years. At the “Big River Workshop” teachers will:

- participate in demonstrations of supporting classroom activities
- receive Teacher’s Guide of thematic Mississippi River resource materials
- get oriented to Big River Journey field trip logistics, and introduced to other river-related learning opportunities
- receive Continuing Education certificate

Workshop location:

Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, classroom #5-6

Workshop date:

Wed., August 30, 2006, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Optional tour of Mississippi River Visitor Center and River Gallery follows.

Workshop registration:

Call Mississippi National River and Recreation Area at 651-290-3030, ext. 297 (Brian Goodspeed).

Workshop cost (donation):

\$15/person or \$25/school (non-refundable) is requested to help defray workshop expenses. Make out a check to “Mississippi National River & Recreation Area” and write “BRJ workshop donation” on the memo line. Send to:

Attn: Brian Goodspeed
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256

2) Preparation and follow-up:

- prepare students for the field trip by conducting science and thematic classroom activities about the Mississippi River (ideas and resource materials provided at workshop)
- organize classes into cooperative groups before trip
- assign groups to a specific learning station rotation (information provided workshop)
- complete follow-up activities such as writing, art, and service learning to reinforce and extend field trip learning
- complete and return evaluations



BIG RIVER JOURNEY RESERVATIONS – FALL 2006

TO RESERVE A BIG RIVER JOURNEY TRIP (Fall, '06):

1) Contact Brian Goodspeed at 651-290-3030, ext. 297 for a trip/date reservation.

Reservations are ***first-come, first-served***, in accordance with limits (i.e. 120 student maximum/trip; 240 max./school) and guidelines outlined in this flyer.

2) Then send or fax this form to National Park Service at address below. We must receive a complete form to reserve your trip, and you must attend or have attended a workshop.

Trip Date (provided by Brian Goodspeed) _____ Trip boarding time (circle): 9:30 11:45

School _____ Number of students (limits: 120/trip, 240/school) _____

Contact Person _____ Contact email _____

School address _____ City, state, zip code _____

Summer address _____ City, state, zip code _____

School Phone # _____ Summer phone # _____ Grade(s) (circle): 4 5 6

Teachers from my school will attend the following Big River Workshop (must check at least one, and fill in below):

☐ Wed, Aug 30, 2006 (8:00-12:30) Teachers who will attend: _____

☐ I/we have attended workshop previously (in past five years): _____

☐ All teachers participating in BRJ from our school have attended the workshop previously (in past five years).

Fax or send this form (or a copy) to:

***Big River Journey Reservations
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area (National Park Service)
111 E. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256
Fax: 651-290-3214***

For further information: Call Brian Goodspeed at 651-290-3030, ext. 297, or visit our website at
<http://www.nps.gov/miss> or <http://www.nps.gov/miss/programs/brj/index.html>